



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Petitions for Reconsideration filed by Mescalero Apache Telecom Inc. and Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. To be sure, the Commission's April 2018 *Tribal Opex Order*, which allows certain rate-of-return carriers serving Tribal communities to recover higher levels of operational expenses from the Universal Service Fund, will result in additional funding to deploy both voice and broadband services in Tribal lands. I agree, however, that the *Order* did not go far enough in extending support to more carriers that service Tribal lands, including Mescalero Apache and Sacred Wind.

After a thorough review of the record, I believe that it was inappropriate to exclude carriers that did not have 10/1 Mbps broadband service deployed to 90% of their service territory (like Mescalero Apache and Sacred Wind) at the time the *Order* was adopted. Accordingly, I have directed staff to circulate an order in the near future to fix this mistake. I am hopeful that my colleagues will support these efforts.

I appreciate your interest in the Commission's critical work to promote broadband deployment in Tribal areas and throughout the country, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to close the digital divide. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a large, flowing script, and "V. Pai" written in a smaller, more formal script to the right.

Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

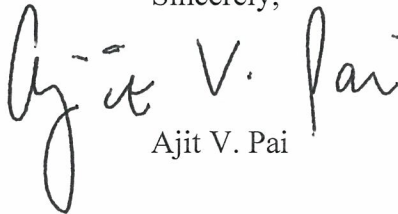
Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Petitions for Reconsideration filed by Mescalero Apache Telecom Inc. and Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. To be sure, the Commission's April 2018 *Tribal Opex Order*, which allows certain rate-of-return carriers serving Tribal communities to recover higher levels of operational expenses from the Universal Service Fund, will result in additional funding to deploy both voice and broadband services in Tribal lands. I agree, however, that the *Order* did not go far enough in extending support to more carriers that service Tribal lands, including Mescalero Apache and Sacred Wind.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
U.S. House of Representatives
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lujan Grisham:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Petitions for Reconsideration filed by Mescalero Apache Telecom Inc. and Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. To be sure, the Commission's April 2018 *Tribal Opex Order*, which allows certain rate-of-return carriers serving Tribal communities to recover higher levels of operational expenses from the Universal Service Fund, will result in additional funding to deploy both voice and broadband services in Tribal lands. I agree, however, that the *Order* did not go far enough in extending support to more carriers that service Tribal lands, including Mescalero Apache and Sacred Wind.

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Ajit V. Pai



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WASHINGTON

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Steve Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Petitions for Reconsideration filed by Mescalero Apache Telecom Inc. and Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. To be sure, the Commission's April 2018 *Tribal Opex Order*, which allows certain rate-of-return carriers serving Tribal communities to recover higher levels of operational expenses from the Universal Service Fund, will result in additional funding to deploy both voice and broadband services in Tribal lands. I agree, however, that the *Order* did not go far enough in extending support to more carriers that service Tribal lands, including Mescalero Apache and Sacred Wind.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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October 3, 2018

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Petitions for Reconsideration filed by Mescalero Apache Telecom Inc. and Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. To be sure, the Commission's April 2018 *Tribal Opex Order*, which allows certain rate-of-return carriers serving Tribal communities to recover higher levels of operational expenses from the Universal Service Fund, will result in additional funding to deploy both voice and broadband services in Tribal lands. I agree, however, that the *Order* did not go far enough in extending support to more carriers that service Tribal lands, including Mescalero Apache and Sacred Wind.

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